

The Howell Homestead
NEAR Roadstown, Cumberland County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-76

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Howell Homestead
Roadstown, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: H. H. Ewing

Date of Erection: 1773

Architect:

Builder: Ebenezer Howell

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick, bricks
were made locally

Cellar originally had a
brick floor

Exterior walls - brick

Inside chimneys

Interior walls - plaster; the
partitions were formed with
one and a quarter inch boards
placed vertically, lathed on
both sides and plastered

Floors - random width cedar

Roof - pitch, wood shingles

Historical Data:

The Howell family originally came from
Wales in 1729 and settled at Newark, Delaware.
They moved to New Jersey in 1769. Four years later,

Ebenezer Howell built the brick house known as the Howell Homestead. The west wing of the house was built first; the east wing was added shortly after. One can easily notice that they were erected at different times. On the floor line of the main building, there is a water table and drip which was apparently constructed to prevent surplus water from seeping into the brick work. The original kitchen has been removed from the north elevation and is now used as a wood house. Some of the original hardware is still on the building. The outstanding feature of the interior is a china closet which has a wing shelf with a circular back.

The initials "R.H. 1773" carved on a jamb and below them the initials "L.H." are evidence of the handwork of Richard and Lewis Howell, sons of Ebenezer and Sarah Howell. The Howell boys were members of the Tea Burners. The men of Bridgeton and Fairton met on the Howell Homestead before joining the rest of the party at the Fithian House in Greenwich. Richard Howell later became a governor of New Jersey. One of the daughters of the Howell Homestead was a grandmother of Jefferson Davis' wife.

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Field Books and Drawing of Survey

Walter E. Rutt

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*Reviewed
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